



The Falcon Post

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Jordan High School's student-run news source

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Mr. Valder Wins “Most Likely to Dye Their Hair Purple” in Teacher Superlatives Contest

by Emmy Grigoni, senior

Superlatives at a Glance

Best Duo - Mr. O’Keefe and Mr. McDonald
Best Bromance - Mr. Murray and Mr. Brosnan
Most Energized - Mr. Murray, followed by Ms. Wescott
Most Likely to Become TikTok Famous - Ms. Wescott
Biggest Heart - Ms. Daming and Mr. Stapleton
Most Likely to Be Thanked in an Acceptance Speech - Mr. Perez
Most Sarcastic - Mr. McDonald
Loudest - Mr. Valder
Most Likely to Dye Their Hair Purple - Mr. Valder
Craziest Life Stories/Most Lore - Mr. Dittmar
Funniest - Mr. Poppe
Most Likely to be Seen on the News - Dr. Lynn
Best Dressed - Ms. Thaden (honorable mentions Sr. Sweeney, Principal Taylor, Mr. Burton)
Best Decorated Classroom - Mr. Albright
Most Likely to Become a Podcaster - Mr. Dail
Most School Spirit - Ms. Bell and Mr. Blackwell
Most Likely to Travel the World - Ms. Odom

It’s time to tally up the votes of the student population to determine the 2024-25 Teacher Superlatives. As this year’s resident vote-counter, I enjoyed observing the quirks and variations of each student’s vote within the pool of responses.

My observations were extensive – I was amazed to read how many different iterations students came up with for the spelling of Mr. Poppe’s name and how dramatically the votes were skewed for some of the categories.

Additionally, it is well worth mentioning that many superlative categories were very closely split between various teachers. While we could only recognize one teacher for each title, we acknowledge the many names written down by students, who may not have won the popular vote but whose numbers were significant and sincere. We love all our teachers, and we appreciate their dedication to making indelible impacts on their students’ lives.

Now without further delay, let’s dive into the superlatives!

Coming in strong, Mr. O’Keefe and Mr. McDonald tallied up the most votes for “Best Duo,” solidifying their reputation as peas in a pod. Mr. Murray and Mr. Brosnan dominated all competition for “Best Bromance,” as every Jordan student knows that these classroom neighbors are inseparable—from the 200 hallway, to the cross country trail, to the very street they live on in Durham.

Mr. Murray also landed the title “Most Energized,” but was followed closely by Ms. Wescott (perhaps reflecting their bond in real life). Ms. Wescott did, however, win “Most Likely to Become TikTok Famous.” Can’t you just see her doing Charli XCX’s apple dance or making a candy salad?

Ms. Daming and Mr. Stapleton tied for “Biggest Heart,” and Mr. Perez took home “Most Likely to Be Thanked in an Acceptance Speech” (by a future student winning an EGOT, of course).

Mr. McDonald would not exit the stage winning just one award and was also crowned “Most Sarcastic.” I can imagine his reaction to his victory will embody this spirit of this superlative.

Not to be outdone, Mr. Valder was a two-time champ as well, absolutely sweeping the competition for both “Loudest” and “Most Likely to Dye Their Hair Purple.” We can’t wait to see that look, Mr. Valder!

Taking nearly half the votes, Mr. Dittmar easily won “Craziest Life Stories/Most Lore.” If this surprises you, start a conversation with him the next time you see him in the hallway.

Mr. Poppe (spelled “Poppi,” “Poppy,” and “Pope” in student submissions) won “Funniest,” and Dr. Lynn took “Most Likely to be Seen on the News.” I agree that the probability of that happening is quite high.

Jordan’s AP Art History teacher and fashion enthusiast Ms. Thaden won “Best Dressed,” but the votes were very close. Some honorable mentions include Señor Sweeney, Principal Taylor, and Mr. Burton (whose talents include making his own clothes)!

Mr. Albright rightfully won “Best Decorated Classroom” for his naturally-lit, poster-covered, Christmas-light adorned Room 216, while Mr. Dail won “Most Likely to Become a Podcaster.” Maybe he and Albright have an Innovation Lab collaboration in store... they’d have plenty to talk about from the student-teacher basketball game. And speaking of the pep rally, Ms. Bell and Mr. Blackwell unsurprisingly tied for “Most School Spirit.”

Finally, Ms. Odom won “Most Likely to Travel the World,” probably inspired by her cross-continental journeys to see her favorite poet perform live under Parisian skies.

That concludes our results for this year’s Teacher Superlatives. On behalf of Falcon Post, I thank our students for voting and our teachers for all they do for this community and the people in it.

BEST and WORST Moments from the Senior-Teacher Basketball Game

by Curtis Berzofsky, junior



Photo by @noahdillonphotography

The first ever Jordan Senior-Teacher basketball game, produced by the student government, was held on Valentine’s Day in the gym. The game had originally been planned as a Snow Ball dance pep rally but was delayed due to snow and other scheduling conflicts. After a close game and overtime, the teacher team was able to pull out a win, 18-16. Here are some of Falcon Post’s BEST and WORST moments from the game.

BEST: Game goes into overtime

After the senior team held a lead of 10-5 at halftime, the teachers were able to rush back and send the game into overtime.

WORST: 30 second overtime

Since the game was constrained by an hour-long advisory period, the overtime period was only able to be 30 seconds long. Only one basket was scored in this period.



Photo from @cejordanstudentgov instagram

WORST: Students can't make a three

In an attempt to widen the lead, many of the students attempted shots beyond the three point line, but none were able to get one to fall. This allowed for the teachers to score in the paint and make a comeback.

BEST: Mr. Perez wears jeans

As a day-of addition for the teacher team, Mr. Perez showed up to the game in skinny jeans that did not seem to help his game.

WORST: Ms. Odom takes a tumble

The former multi-sport athlete seemed to have trouble keeping her balance despite her obvious effort in the game.

BEST: Mr. Green banks in a three to tie the game

Assistant coach of the JV team and former high school basketball player, Mr. Green was the only player in the game to make a shot beyond the arc. This shot was able to complete the teacher team's race back to tie the game.

Arts

Upcoming Jordan Band Concert

This Thursday, February 27th, Jordan Band will perform a concert before they attend MPA (Music Performance Adjudication).

Come out and support fellow Falcons this Thursday!

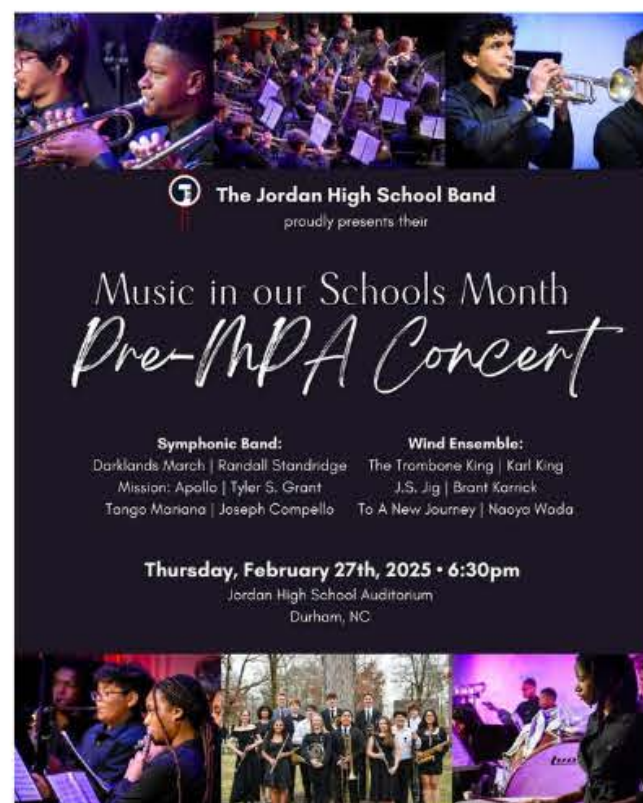


Photo from Instagram @jordanhbands

Falcon Sports Update

by Phoebe Artin, junior

Here is your Falcon Sports Update for February, wrapping up winter sports (aside from basketball, who is on to the state playoffs)! Next installment will begin covering spring sports, get excited.

Varsity M Basketball:

- 85-45 W vs. Northern
- 55-29 W vs. Chapel Hill
- 70-42 W vs. Riverside
- 72-59 W vs. East Chapel Hill
- 78-40 W @ Northern
- 61-59 L @ Hillside
- 61-45 W vs. East Chapel Hill
- 59-46 W vs. Chapel Hill
- CONFERENCE CHAMPIONS**

Varsity W Basketball:

- 56-11 W vs. Northern
- 57-35 L vs. Chapel Hill
- 54-16 W vs. Riverside
- 64-19 W vs. East Chapel Hill
- 43-15 W @ Northern
- 54-23 W @ Hillside
- 60-35 W vs. East Chapel Hill
- 50-27 L @ Chapel Hill

JV M Basketball:

- 79-21 W vs. Northern
- 44-41 W @ Chapel Hill
- 51-43 W vs. Riverside
- 59-49 W @ East Chapel Hill
- 74-20 W @ Northern
- 59-47 L @ Hillside

JV W Basketball:

- 46-45 W @ Chapel Hill
- 32-26 W @ Green Level

Indoor Track and Field:

- 5th place finish by the girls 4x400 meter relay
- Top 15 finishes by Adrian Smith, Cullen Winchester, Raymond Brunson, Zahid Pinkard, boys 4x200 relay, Tyshaun Couch, Nia Anderson, Kaitlyn Kinch, Sanjia Allen, Cristina Scott-Ramos, and girls 4x200 relay

NCHSAA 4A Indoor State Championship Meet:
Top 15 finishes by Sanjia Allen and Cristina Scott Ramos, Top 20 finish by Nia Anderson

M Swimming and Diving:

NCHSAA 4A State Championship: 200 Medley Relay placed 14th, Ryan Sutherland placed 14th in the 100 Back, 400 Free Relay placed 16th

W Swimming and Diving:

NCHSAA 4A State Championship: Sophie Thornburg placed 13th in the 200 Free and 6th in the 500 Free

Wrestling:

Individual Regionals: Fares Alkurdasi makes it to the State Championships

First Round of Basketball State Playoffs:

2/25 Varsity M Basketball vs. Pine Forest
2/25 Varsity W Basketball @ Knightdale

World/US News

Super Bowl LIX

Watching Commercials > Watching the Game

by Danica Laan, senior

For some people, the most exciting part of the Super Bowl is the game. However, other people (like me) watch the Super Bowl for the commercials and halftime show. This year, the commercials were pretty decent, with cameos from big-time celebrities and airtime costing \$8 million for every 30 seconds. Out of the 80 commercials that showed during the game, here were my top five:

- WeatherTech "Grannies are Born to be Wild" - With the hit song "Born to Be Wild" by Steppenwolf playing in the background, the four classic grannies took the road. They breakdanced, flashed the bingo commentator, and graffitied trucks. This ad had me laughing the whole time, and definitely takes the cake for my favorite commercial during the Super Bowl.

Half-Page Ad: \$50 **Your Ad Here!** Quarter-Page Ad: \$30

Clubs, student organizations, and community supporters: want to advertise in the Falcon Post? Reach out to falconpostjhs@gmail.com and fill out the link for Falcon Post ads on the Jordan online payment portal!

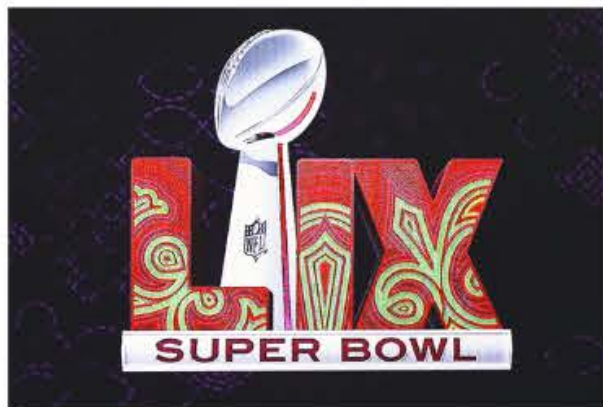


Photo from FOX Sports

- Mountain Dew “Kiss From a Lime” - This commercial might've been one of the weirdest ones of the night, but I think that is what I enjoyed the most about it. Mountain Dew advertised their new Taco Bell-inspired variant of Mountain Dew, Baja Blue. The ad features singers Becky G and Seal. Seal's face appears on a seal's body and sings a modified version of his song “Kiss from a Rose” to “Kiss From A Lime.” This commercial definitely got my attention and might convince me to finally try Mountain Dew.
- Poppi - This soda company had a commercial stacked full of influencers such as Alix Earle and Jake Shane. Some people would see that as a negative, but what I found incredible about this ad was the surprise appearance from Love Island USA's Rob Rausch. For fans of the show like me, this cameo most likely stole the spotlight from the other celebs and could be a path to Rob's redemption arc.
- Ram Trucks - This commercial mimics the classic story of Goldilocks and The Three Bears, but instead of a young blonde girl, actor Glen Powell embraces the long golden locks. He reads out the classic fairytale while driving a Dodge Ram Truck. This commercial embraces the stereotypical “macho man” vibes with a bit of mockery and childlike fantasy. While I probably wasn't the target audience, I had a good time and found myself interested in trucks (or maybe it was just Glen Powell).

- Lilo & Stitch - Interrupting the football broadcast, viewers watch as Disney character Stitch runs energetically across a football field. Evading capture by digging holes and driving a golf cart which is later crashed, Disney advertises the new Lilo & Stitch movie. It will be in theatres starting May 28th. This commercial incorporated football and a hilarious game of chase, appealing to the football dads and chads, as well as the kids who watched the first half of the game before going to bed. Nice job, Disney!

Overall, the commercials were fairly funny, but I haven't quite decided if they have topped Hellmann's Mayo Cat or the surprising Wicked Part One first look. I look forward to seeing the commercial lineup next year, and hope there are more wild grannies.

Kendrick Lamar Halftime Show Review

by Noah Dillon, junior



Photo from The Hollywood Reporter

Since the NFL handed the keys to the Super Bowl's Halftime show to Jay-Z's entertainment company Roc Nation in 2019, there have been multiple memorable and commercially successful performances from a wide range of artists. Beginning with Shakira and Jennifer Lopez, to solo performances by The Weekend and Rihanna, this transfer of power hasn't cut the star level of the performers in the slightest.

And while Kendrick Lamar isn't necessarily any larger than the previously mentioned artists, what sets him apart is what will probably go down as one of the most notorious and successful years a musician can have. The main player in that being the well-known beef with Drake this past spring, which garnered multiple hits from a few lethal diss tracks.

Once the dust had settled, it was fairly obvious to most that Kendrick had soundly won the battle. Aside from this, Kendrick also unexpectedly dropped an album, 'GNX,' this past November, which has been extremely successful, even by his standards. But even with the announcement that he would be headlining coming out in September, well before GNX released, it was not a shock to many after the year he already had.

But did he live up to the expectations? That's a debate to many. In terms of the setlist, it was about what I expected, and I was mostly happy with it. All the songs performed were released in 2017 and after, which was somewhat disappointing, with many considering his early work to be his best. My main problem in terms of the music was that his vocals were often drowned out for any number of reasons. Either his mic was too low or the beat was too loud. The musical guest features were expected, with SZA coming in mid show to perform 'luther' and 'All The Stars,' as well as Mustard coming on stage for 'tv off' and the loud "MUSSTARRRDD" within the song.

Aside from musical guests, we also were somewhat surprised with Samuel L. Jackson's cameo as the narrator of the show, portraying the 'Uncle Sam,' a character who has long symbolized the American government in propaganda and political cartoons. While I could go a whole other article into depth on the deeper meaning behind this decision, Jackson's comments and questions towards Kendrick during the show, such as, "Mr. Lamar, do you really know how to play the game?" and the elements of protest and revolution following it were a direct criticism of the American system (the 'game'), especially for the black communities in America who are being systematically discriminated against.

The show was there for entertainment, but the overarching message was one of revolution, possibly hoping to light a fire in people's minds. And I'd say overall, it succeeded at both tasks but still could have used some improvements in its core and fine details.

Local News

Duke-UNC Men's Basketball Game Recap

by Katie Taylor, freshman

UNC vs. Duke, a college basketball rivalry dating back to the 1920s. Whether you are a sports fan or not, if you live in North Carolina, you have heard of this rivalry. On February 1st, the teams met up for the 263rd time. This game has been long awaited by both Duke and UNC fans, as this was the first time they had faced this season. The Duke and UNC rivalry is known to be one of the biggest rivalries in men's college basketball, with their history as well as their fans proving the dedication behind it.

Duke students go as far as to camp in what they call Krzyzewskiville, or K-Ville, named after their last coach, Coach K. Dedicated students camp out in tents outside of the basketball stadium in hopes of securing seats in the student section for Duke's home games. According to Yahoo Sports, camping for the February 1st basketball game started on January 12th, a whopping 20 days before the game. As well as spending many nights in K-Ville, each tent, housing 12 students, is expected to follow certain rules requiring at least one student to be in the tents 24/7. One Duke student told ESPN, "I know people think we are crazy, and we are," says Sam Freder. "No one should be surprised. It's right there in the name. The Cameron Crazies."

As well as this, both teams fully dress out for the game, with people in head-to-toe Duke or UNC blue, holding signs with memes and messages to their teams to cheer them on. Whether the blue-blood rivalry game takes place at Duke's Cameron Indoor Stadium, or UNC's "Dean Dome," you can count on not only the teams, but also the fans, to make it exciting.

In their most recent game, number 1 ranked Duke University faced unranked UNC at Duke's home court, Cameron Indoor Stadium, crushing them by an astounding 87-70, stretching Duke's winning streak to 15. While Duke had an overall better record going into the game, both Duke and UNC fans were expecting an exciting game, especially because UNC had won three of their last four games at Cameron Indoor, and because their games almost always keep viewers on the edge of their seats.

In the past 10 UNC vs. Duke games, excluding this one, there have only been two games between the two rivals where the point differential has been over 10. However, in this game, Duke dominated from the beginning, leading by as many as 32 points at one point. Two of Duke's freshmen were the lead scorers during the game, with Kon Knueppel scoring 22 points and teammate Cooper Flagg getting 21 points. As for UNC, their star player, senior RJ Davis, and freshman Drake Powell led Carolina with 12 points apiece. UNC started the game slow, shooting under 30 percent of their goals in the first 20 minutes, and ended the half 47-25.

Duke not only started the game on fire and with energy, but their team also towered over UNC in height of their players, and by the end of the game, Duke led UNC in field goals, 3-pointers, free throws, and steals, and had only 8 turnovers to UNC's 14.

While this game went in Duke's favor, nothing is to say the outcome of their next match-up will be the same. Duke and UNC will play again in March.



Photo from ESPN

UNC Student Loses Morehead-Cain Scholarship

by Emilia Magwene Muniz, freshman



Photo from The Daily Tar Heel

Laura Saavedra Forero, a UNC student and activist for disability rights, environmental justice, and Palestinian support, was a recipient of the prestigious Morehead-Cain Scholarship. However, on January 6, 2024, the Morehead-Cain Scholarship Trustees revoked her scholarship.

In November 2023, she posted a cartoon on Instagram connecting Starbucks to the violence in Gaza. Scholarship President Chris Bradford met with her to discuss the post, labeling it as antisemitic. Later, Bradford sent an email to her, warning that her scholarship might be at risk. During winter break, Saavedra Forero signed a letter where she agreed to not participate in attacks toward individuals, spreading "propaganda," harassment directed at individuals, and activities that disrupt other individuals' ability to participate in campus activities.

In the spring, Saavedra Forero participated in the Folk Place encampment, where she was one of several Morehead Cain scholars present, according to two anonymous scholars. A week later, she joined a Students for Palestine march, where participants attempted to block Provost Chris Clemens' car. She was charged with impeding traffic and resisting a public officer, and notably, she was the only protestor charged with impeding traffic. One Morehead-Cain scholar said that "she thinks the choice to charge her is part of a larger pattern of targeting by UNC Police due to her status as a wheelchair user."

On July 24, she received a formal letter suspending her from the Morehead-Cain program.

In August, after charges against her were dropped, Saavedra Forero informed the Morehead-Cain Foundation and sent a letter from her lawyer explaining her situation. She later pleaded her case to the Trustees. In October, she attended a Students for Justice in Palestine walkout but was unable to enter any buildings. A few weeks later she was served with a warrant for materials on her phone after being identified at the event.

Saavedra Forero, frustrated by being easily identifiable due to her wheelchair, received a citation for resisting arrest, which she included in her plea deal.

At the end of the semester, Bradford told her that it was "highly unlikely" she would regain her scholarship, which was officially revoked in January. Although disappointed, Saavedra Forero was not surprised and remains unclear about the specific reasons for the scholarship's loss.

Source: "Activist loses Morehead-Cain Scholarship, left unsure of what rules she broke," The Daily Tar Heel

Games

Valentine's Day Word Search

by Noah Dillon, Zoe Dolbow, Fiona Spagnardi, and Logan Downey Piper

I	B	O	N	A	T	O	R	S	F	P	E	F	S
A	Y	A	B	R	Y	R	S	E	Y	W	R	R	O
C	R	S	T	E	D	R	K	I	S	S	E	S	H
O	A	E	C	R	N	Y	S	S	S	W	C	C	U
H	U	V	U	R	A	E	L	G	O	D	N	H	R
D	R	E	P	T	C	E	U	L	E	T	U	O	I
Y	B	B	I	F	R	H	F	E	D	E	T	C	K
E	E	E	D	N	N	E	T	S	T	D	V	O	A
R	F	S	A	E	H	S	E	H	N	D	A	L	O
F	S	E	N	E	E	S	H	U	E	Y	G	A	R
C	I	E	O	L	A	T	R	S	E	B	V	T	O
R	O	W	Y	L	R	A	K	G	O	E	E	E	S
E	V	O	L	V	T	O	S	R	S	A	E	N	E
E	V	A	L	E	N	T	I	N	E	R	A	U	S

- Teddy Bear
- Heart
- Cupid
- February
- Candy
- Flowers
- Kisses
- Hugs
- Valentine
- Chocolate
- Love
- Roses

Connections

by Danica Laan, senior

CRASH	SNAP	WEDDING	DANCE
DOWN	SINGING	HEART	BALLAD
SET	PLAY	RING	FLAP
BOOK	BLOCKING	BELL	SCRAMBLE

ANSWERS: Connections
On The Stage: Blocking, Dance, Set, Singing
Football Terms: Down, Play, Scramble, Snap
Romance: Ballad, Book, Heart, Wedding
Types of Sounds: Bell, Crash, Flap, Ring